

Sketch a Route GPS Art – Cycling Week in Kingston 2020

Sketch a Route GPS Art – It's not Etch A Sketch®, but it can be just as fun!

Practically since the Globe Positioning System (GPS) was first opened for public use (before it was only for military applications) artists and others got the idea of creating drawing using travel mapped by GPS. One of the popular means of travel to make these drawing is by bicycle. As handlebar mounted GPS units got smaller, more affordable, better quality, and software and online programs improved; it's been easier to design, record, and display route GPS art.

Here's the challenge. Create a route GPS art, either as a planned route or freewheeling freestyle. Then, post it to Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram with the hashtag #CyclingWeekYGK and tag us. We will be looking for these "masterpieces" and share them through Cycle Kingston's social media, and maybe even post a few on our website! All for bragging rights!

All are welcome to participate. Go realistic or abstract, simple or complex, picture drawings and doodles or word art, anything as long as it's in good taste! **Please keep in mind social/physical distancing, as well as following the rules and laws of the road when riding.**

Tips and Suggestions

Mapping your drawing:

- Use whatever mapping system you may have (e.g., Ride With GPS, Strava, MapMyRide, BikeMap). If you don't already have an account with one of these systems, most offer a free or guest account that should get the job done.
- Most smart phones support a mapping system and also serve as a GPS unit. Screen captures from your phone can be posted to social media.
- If you are going to do a planned drawing (using whichever mapping/route planning system on your computer) this will usually take a bit more time. You'll need to load the route so make sure it's saved in a compatible format (e.g., .gpx, .fit, .tcx) for your GPS device (e.g., Garmin, Polar, Wahoo, Sigma, Lezyne).
- Going freewheeling freestyle (getting out and just record your ride) will likely take less time, overall. Make sure your saved route is unloadable to the mapping program you use so that you can grab a screen shot or snip to post; or, grab a screen capture from your phone.
- Online resource: Global Cycling Network video - www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMF-Fv2BT0k

Posting your drawing:

- Post to any or all the three of these social media - Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.
- Check the maximum size dimensions for posting to each media platform so your whole route drawing will be shown. Note that Instagram automatically crops to square, so you may want to do that yourself before uploading.
- You can rotate your drawing before posting, if you like; or leave it as a north-up orientation.
- Be sure to use the hashtag #CyclingWeekYGK.
- Please tag us @cyclekingston (for Twitter and Instagram) @cyclekingstonInc (on Facebook).
- To make sure we find your drawing, and so that we can repost to our media, please follow and/or friend us on our social media.

Most of all, have fun as we celebrate bicycles and all things cycling!

Hal Cain – Veloist360

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